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to the good, as such farms generally contribute nothing towards agricultural production and are far from being a social asset. There are no latifundia in Lithuania. The largest estate comprises about 1,000 hectares, and the larger properties exceeding 100 hectares number only 1602, or 0.56% of the total farms.

The proportion of men and women in the rural population is about equal. The country people do not go to the towns in search of work, as urban and country dwellers carry on different trades and their lives are quite separate.

An old barn.

The soil is of average fertility. In the east and south-east, there is a small area which is sandy and not very fertile, while, in the north again, a small area consists of very fertile land. The vast plains of Lithuania are covered with clay — more or less light — deposited during the Ice Age and subjected to centuries of erosion and impoverishment.

The rainfall is fairly heavy, so that much of this low-lying land necessitates drainage works. The State makes itself responsible for the large-scale regularisation of rivers and watercourses and the cutting of drainage channels. The farmers are responsible, with the help of Government subsidies, for ditching and drain-laying on water-logged land. By no means all of the land is satisfactorily drained. The yield cannot

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242 therefore hope as yet to equal that of the more progressive countries of Western Europe, but it does exceed the average figure for Eastern Europe. The yield per hectare is 13-14 quintals for wheat and 12-13 quintals for barley and rye; the figure for oats is slightly below the figure for barley, owing to the havoc caused in recent years by rust.

241 Lithuania produces large quantities of cereals and pulse, a large part of which is, however, required for fodder. Forage is also obtained from wide areas of clover, meadowland and [233] pasture. Stock-breeding constitutes the principal agricultural activity : cattle, pigs, poultry. Lithuania used to be famous for her horses, which were exported in large numbers to Western Europe; now, however, there is very little export trade, and almost all the farm-work is done with horses.

Work in the fields generally begins in the second half of April and ends in about mid-November. The winter is long and farm work is concentrated in a relatively short period. The fact that the country is broken up into small farms, in conjunction with the low purchasing-power of the farmer, has prevented the mechanisation of agriculture on any very extensive scale. Cereals and pulse are generally machine-threshed, but most of the field-work is done by animal-drawn implements or by hand. There are a fair number of reapers, binders, seeders, hoers and other types of agricultural machinery, but these are employed only for part of the work; not all the peasant farmers are fortunate enough to possess them, so that a great deal must depend on human labour. This fact and the comparative shortness of the season means that the call for labour is greatest during the summer. Accordingly, a relatively large number of the population lives in the country and is intensively occupied during the season of work in the fields.

* * *

431 The economic structure of Lithuania has determined the character of her trade with Germany. Lithuania disposes of her surplus agricultural production on the international market (in 1938, 40% of her exports were absorbed by the United Kingdom, 26.8% by Germany, 5.7% by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 4.5% by Belgium, etc.). Her imports consist mainly of manufactured products, including 33% from the United Kingdom, 24.4% from Germany, 6.7% from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 4.7% from the Netherlands and 3.8% from Belgium.

In 1938, exports totalled 233 million litai and imports 223 millions. One half of the exports consisted of foodstuffs (122 million litai : including butter 48 millions, bacon 24 millions,

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III. SOIL IMPROVEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

641 The Ministry of Agriculture controls the organisation for the encouragement of technical progress in agriculture, the aim 242 of which is to improve the conditions of existence of the 433 agricultural classes. The Ministry is responsible for carrying out agrarian reform and agricultural improvements, schools of agriculture, the organisation and improvement of veterinary work and supervision of the export of agricultural produce, etc.

In addition to the Ministry, the Chamber of Agriculture (founded in 1927) is also active in agricultural development. It is in charge of all the forms of agricultural training not under the authority of the Ministry, including the agricultural intelligence service; it supervises and co-ordinates the activities of the stock-breeders' associations, the flax-growers' association, the sugar-beet-growers' association and other similar organisations; it also subsidises various agricultural organisations and individual agriculturists with a view to the promotion or improvement of some particular branch of agriculture, and organises agricultural shows, etc.

474 Working in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture are various central organisations concerned with the processing 242 of agricultural produce, and its marketing abroad and at home, 433 and with supplying to agriculturists all such goods as they may require. These organisations are: "Lietuvos Žemės Ūkio Kooperatyvų Sąjunga" ("Lithuanian Union of Agricultural Co-operative Societies"), abbreviated to "Lietūkis", "Centralinė Lietuvos Pieno Perdirbimo Bendrovių Sąjunga" ("Lithuanian Central Union of Dairymen's Co-operative Societies"), abbreviated to "Pienocentras", and the "Maistas" and "Lietuvos Cukrus" joint-stock companies.

The chief measures taken with a view to the improvement of agricultural production are the consolidation of holdings (see above), land drainage, the development of agricultural training (see under V) and agricultural research.

312 Systematic work on the drainage of agricultural land could not be begun until 1921. The Ministry of Agriculture is proceeding with the regularisation of the beds of streams and the cutting of dykes which enable agriculturists to drain water-logged land completely by means of open ditches or drainage pipes. The total area of the land drained by means of dykes from 1921 to 1937 (inclusive) is approximately 416,000 hectares, or more than 10% of all the land used for agricultural purposes.

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As regards *agricultural research*, the Institute of Agricultural Research (founded in 1927) is in charge of experimental work in the field of agriculture throughout the country, with the exception of the work conducted by the Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva. It has at present under its control seven experimental stations dealing with various matters relating to the cultivation of crops, an experimental fruit-growing station (in process of organisation), a crop improvement station (at Dotnuva), a crop protection station (at Dotnuva) and a station for research on the breeding of pigs for bacon. Proposals are under consideration for the foundation of an agricultural machinery testing station and of stations for research into cattle- and sheep-breeding respectively.

In consequence of these measures, and particularly the activities of the agricultural intelligence service, agriculturists have begun to introduce a more rational system of crop rotation, to prepare the soil more carefully and fertilise it more rationally (the progress of stock-breeding increases the quantities of manure available), to use better quality seed, to improve meadow- and pasture-land, to make more extensive use of agricultural machinery (through the foundation of co-operative societies for the joint use of machinery), etc. The results have been a decrease in the area of land left fallow and a corresponding increase in the area sown from an average of 2,079,000 hectares for the years 1928 to 1930 to 2,312,000 hectares for the period 1935 to 1937, the increase chiefly affecting the land under the more intensively cultivated crops (wheat, sugar-beet, mangel-wurzels). There has also been an increase in the yield per hectare of all the principal crops (wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas and potatoes), the yield from 1933 to 1937 being almost half as great again as during the years 1901 to 1910. It is worthy of note that, whilst the cultivation of sugar-beet was entirely unknown in the country before the war, the refineries now pay out almost 6½ million litai to the growers each year. The productivity of meadow- and pasture-land has increased to an even greater extent than that of arable land.

This latter circumstance has permitted the development of stock-breeding and the number of farm animals has risen considerably (in the case of cattle, for example, from 766,000 in 1913 to 1,172,000 in 1937). As a result of the organisation of milk control societies, breeding centres, the keeping of stud books, etc., the productivity of stock has also increased very considerably.

Progress has been particularly noteworthy in the case of cattle (which, in Lithuania, are mainly bred for the production of milk). In 1923, with a view to the transformation of surplus milk into exportable produce, chiefly butter, dairymen's co-operative societies were founded with the financial support

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474 agricultural machinery, etc. Without the co-operative societies, the acquisition of these indispensable articles would have been almost impossible. Machinery to facilitate the various processes of farming and tools by which the land could be more efficiently prepared were shown to peasants at exhibitions, conferences and practical demonstrations organised by the rural co-operative societies.

474 242 3. Before the war, when Lithuania was still part of Russia, it was only towards 1911 or 1912 that action to encourage technical progress in agriculture could be developed on anything like a wide scale. Before that date, and particularly since 1906, much had been done in this sphere by the co-operative organisations — agricultural societies and farmers' clubs. At the meetings held by these organisations, many questions relating to the improvement of agricultural production were discussed. Exhibitions, courses of instruction and lectures were regularly held and visits were organised to model farms, experimental stations and demonstrations of agricultural instruments; schools of agriculture were founded and journals were published. General questions of importance to agriculturists were also discussed — *e.g.*, the flight from the land, the problem of agricultural labour, means of transport, hygiene and social insurance.

4. Since the end of the nineteenth century, propaganda has been conducted for the development of stock-breeding, particularly for the purposes of the dairy industries, as a substitute for the corn-growing to which Lithuanian agriculturists used largely to confine themselves. This propaganda was directed, in the first instance, to the owners of large agricultural estates and was subsequently extended to the owners of medium and small holdings also.

474 [727] The valuable activities of the co-operative societies in this sphere were interrupted by the war, during which Lithuanian agriculture suffered greatly: there was a fall of 38% in the number of horses, 47% in cattle, 44% in pigs and 30% in sheep; approximately 35% of the arable land was lying fallow and 1,200 villages with 14,270 agricultural undertakings, 2,000 separate undertakings and fifty townships, comprising a total of 57,080 buildings, were destroyed. The independent State of Lithuania was raised from the ruins without any compensation being received for the losses suffered. The co-operative societies applied themselves to the revival of rural life. Henceforward, their activities were better organised, as they were allowed to form unions and were able to concern themselves with the most varied branches of rural life.

In 1918, only 10% of the co-operative societies in being before the war still remained, so that the network of societies had to be extended. In consequence, many new societies of